

2.3 Individuals

Abbott, Doug
Page 1 of 2

Forwarded by Susan K Kozacek/R3/USDAFS on
10/16/2003 05:22 PM –

doug@intellimetrix.us
10/10/2003 10:35 AM

To: skozacek@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson
Electric Power's
proposed 345 kilovolt powerline

Ms. Sue Kozacek
Coronado National Forest
Federal Building, 300 West Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Ms. Kozacek,

1 I am writing to urge you to withdraw the current draft
Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric
Power's proposed 345-kilovolt powerline.

2 TEP's proposed "Western Route" and alternative
"Crossover Route" would carve through some of the most
remote and wild areas in Southeast Arizona, forever
scarring the beautiful and irreplaceable landscape of the
Tumacacori Highlands. This area contains several
roadless areas as well as a citizen's proposed Wilderness
area home to black bears, Mexican spotted owls, lesser-
long nosed bats and peregrine falcons as well as lesser
known species such as the Sonora chub, Mexican vine
snake, elegant trogon and the Gentry indigo bush. A
jaguar was sighted in this area only two years ago.

Comment No. 1

The commentor's opinion that the Draft EIS should be withdrawn is noted.

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 describe existing land use resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to the Tumacacori Mountains and the Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs.

Section 5.2.4 of the EIS acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to wildlife.

Comment No. 3

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system located in Sonora, Mexico." As explained in Section 1.2 of the Final EIS, where a Federal agency is evaluating a request for a permit for a proposed action developed by a non-Federal applicant (e.g., TEP), CEQ has opined that Federal agencies should select alternatives which are feasible given the applicant's stated goals and reflect the "common sense realities" of the situation. Therefore, the Federal agencies are evaluating the proposed project presented by TEP to each of the Federal agencies (see Section 1.2.2, Federal Agencies' Purpose and Need Statements).

Abbott, Doug
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3 The important goal of providing fully reliable electrical service to the city of Nogales and Santa Cruz County must be achieved. Unfortunately,

3 instead of building the small transmission line necessary to achieve this goal, TEP has proposed a massive, environmentally destructive, and extremely controversial powerline designed to export power to Mexico.

4 My personal suspicion is that this is an explicit attempt to open up a currently roadless potential wilderness area to development.

5 The draft EIS is clearly inadequate, because it does not address important alternatives to TEP's powerline which would provide reliable service without destroying our environmental and cultural heritage, and which would not require huge increases to consumers' electricity bills.

6 The recent blackout in the Northeast is an urgent reminder that our energy policy should be based on serving the public interest, not corporate private profits. I urge DOE to issue a new draft EIS which fully and rigorously explores all available options-including a local power plant and smaller power lines which would not serve Mexico-to meet the important public interest of providing reliable energy service to Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,

Doug Abbott
4252 N. Swan St.
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

Comment No. 4

Section 1.2.2 of the Final EIS states that the purpose and need for USFS action is to determine whether the proposed project is appropriate within the Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest, and thus whether to issue authorization.

Comment No. 5

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

Comment No. 6

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis.)

Abbott, Kathi
Page 1 of 1

From: Kathi Abbott [SMTP:krabbit@osekmedia.com]
To: Pell, Jerry
Cc:

Subject: power line
Sent: 10/8/2003 10:57 PM
Importance: Normal

1 I am opposed to the western route for the proposed power line because of the great, irreversible damage to the wilderness. Sycamore Creek is home to unique animal and plant species. The scenic value of this spectacular area will be seriously degraded. There are existing power lines running up the Santa Cruz Valley. I would rather see the power lines concentrated up this corridor. It seems that it would be more efficient and less expensive to build along already developed corridors than to bulldoze undeveloped, pristine wilderness.

Kathi Abbott
Arivaca, AZ

Comment No. 1

Section 4.3.2 presents analyses of potential impacts to wildlife within the Western Corridor from the proposed project. Section 4.2.1 presents analyses of the potential impacts to visual resources within the Western Corridor from the proposed project.

Due to visual impacts through densely populated areas, and the potential impacts to cultural resources, the I-19 Corridor was eliminated from further analysis as viable action alternative (see Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis, in the Final EIS).

Adamson, Bill and Marylee
Page 1 of 1

Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission
Line Deis

From: Bill Adamson [Smtip: Billadamson@Earthlink.Net]
To: Pell, Jerry
Cc:

Subject: Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales
Transmission Line Deis

Sent: 10/13/2003 9:51 Pm
Importance: Normal

Dr. Pell,

1 We've been reading about the proposed TEP Power Line
2 from Sahuarita - Nogales. It doesn't sound like there is even
3 a need for such a huge 345 kV line and the preferred route
4 cuts through a beautiful, pristine area. It's an area
appreciated by many people for hiking, nature study, and
getting away from signs of over development.

3 Please do not approve the permit for construction of this
4 line. Once it's done, there's no reversing it. A smaller line
elsewhere, preferably buried where feasible, would meet the
needs adequately and not destroy a beautiful area.

Respectfully,
Bill and Marylee Adamson
Green Valley AZ

Comment No. 1

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." In an applicant-initiated process, such as TEP's proposed project, the range of reasonable alternatives analyzed in detail in the EIS is directly related to the applicant's purpose and need.

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.1.2 and 4.1.2 present a description of the existing recreational opportunities and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Sections 3.2 and 4.2 present a description of the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 present a description of the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Comment No. 3

The Federal agencies note the commentor's opposition for the approval of permit for the construction of the proposed project.

Comment No. 4

A smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

Adamson, Bill and Marylee
Page 1 of 1



Mr. & Mrs. William M. Adamson
903 W Calle Excelso
Green Valley, AZ 85614-2861

Oct. 13, 03

Dear Sue,

I've been reading about
the Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-
Nogales Transmission line DEIS
and needed Forest Plan Amendments.
It doesn't sound like there is even
a need for such a huge 345 kV line.
And the preferred route cuts through
a beautiful, pristine area. It's an
area appreciated by many people for
hiking, nature study and getting away
from the signs of overdevelopment.
I urge you to deny the special
use permit for this preferred
route because it is not needed
and would conflict with use of this area.

Thank you. Sincerely,
Bill and Marylee Adamson

Comment No. 1

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system...." In an applicant-initiated process, such as TEP's proposed project, the range of reasonable alternatives analyzed in detail in the EIS is directly related to the applicant's purpose and need.

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.1.2 and 4.1.2 discuss the existing recreational opportunities and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Sections 3.2 and 4.2 discuss the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Comment No. 3

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 discuss the existing land use and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Allison, Juniper
Page 1 of 2

Forwarded by Susan K Kozacek/R3/USDAFS on
10/16/2003 05:34 PM -----
juniperallison@hotmail.com
10/11/2003 04:16 PM

To: skozacek@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson
Electric Power's
proposed 345 kilovolt powerline

Ms. Sue Kozacek
Coronado National Forest
Federal Building, 300 West Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Ms. Kozacek,

1 | Please accept the following comments in addition to those I
have sent by mail and/or email earlier today. Note that the
absence of critique of the "Central" route does NOT imply
that any environmentalist is in favor of that route--or ANY
route impacting the National Forest.

2 | I am writing to urge you to withdraw the current draft
Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric
Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline.

3 | TEP's proposed "Western Route" and alternative
"Crossover Route" would carve through some of the most
remote and wild areas in Southeast Arizona, forever
scarring the beautiful and irreplaceable landscape of the
Tumacacori Highlands. This area contains several roadless
areas as well as a citizen's proposed Wilderness area home
to black bears,

Comment No. 1

The Federal agencies note the commentator's opinion that the absence of critique of the Central Corridor does not imply that environmentalists are in favor of the Central Corridor or any corridor that would impact the Coronado National Forest.

Comment No. 2

The commentator's opinion that the Draft EIS should be withdrawn is noted.

Comment No. 3

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 describe existing land use resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to the Tumacacori Mountains and the Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs.

Section 5.2.4 of the EIS acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to wildlife habitat.

Allison, Juniper
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3
cont.

Mexican spotted owls, lesser-long nosed bats and peregrine falcons as well as lesser known species such as the Sonora chub, Mexican vine snake, elegant trogon and the Gentry indigo bush. A jaguar was sighted in this area only two years ago.

4

The important goal of providing fully reliable electrical service to the city of Nogales and Santa Cruz County must be achieved. Unfortunately, instead of building the small transmission line necessary to achieve this goal, TEP has proposed a massive, environmentally destructive, and extremely controversial powerline designed to export power to Mexico.

5

The draft EIS is clearly inadequate, because it does not address important alternatives to TEP's powerline which would provide reliable service without destroying our environmental and cultural heritage, and which would not require huge increases to consumers' electricity bills.

6

The recent blackout in the Northeast is an urgent reminder that our energy policy should be based on serving the public interest, not corporate private profits. I urge DOE to issue a new draft EIS which fully and rigorously explores all available options-including a local power plant and smaller power lines which would not serve Mexico-to meet the important public interest of providing reliable energy service to Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,

Juniper Allison
P.O. Box 42
Arivaca, Arizona 85601

Comment No. 4

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system located in Sonora, Mexico." As explained in Section 1.2 of the Final EIS, where a Federal agency is evaluating a request for a permit for a proposed action developed by a non-Federal applicant (e.g., TEP), CEQ has opined that Federal agencies should select alternatives which are feasible given the applicant's stated goals and reflect the "common sense realities" of the situation. Therefore, the Federal agencies are evaluating the proposed project presented by TEP to each of the Federal agencies (see Section 1.2.2, Federal Agencies' Purpose and Need Statements).

Comment No. 5

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

Comment No. 6

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis.)

Althiser, Kenneth
Page 1 of 2

Forwarded by Susan K Kozacek/R3/USDAFS on 10/09/2003
06:51 PM -
ken_althiser@redlands.edu
10/09/2003 04:38 PM

To: skozacek@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric
Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline

Ms. Sue Kozacek
Coronado National Forest
Federal Building, 300 West Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Ms. Kozacek,

1 I am writing to urge you to withdraw the current draft
Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric Power's
proposed 345 kilovolt powerline.

2 TEP's proposed "Western Route" and alternative "Crossover
Route" would carve through some of the most remote and
wild areas in Southeast Arizona, forever scarring the
beautiful and irreplaceable landscape of the Tumacacori
Highlands. The wild areas of Arizona have already taken
extensive damage from overdevelopment in the state. This
area, in particular, contains several roadless areas as well as a
citizen's proposed Wilderness area, home to black bears,
Mexican spotted owls, lesser-long nosed bats and peregrine
falcons as well as lesser known species such as the Sonora
chub, Mexican vine snake, elegant trogon and the Gentry
indigo bush. A jaguar was sighted in this area only two years
ago.

3 The important goal of providing fully reliable electrical
service to the city of Nogales and Santa Cruz County must

Comment No. 1

The commentor's opinion that the Draft EIS should be withdrawn is noted.

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 describe existing land use resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to the Tumacacori Mountains and the Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs.

Section 5.2.4 of the EIS acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to wildlife.

Comment No. 3

TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system..." When a Federal agency is evaluating a request for a permit for a proposed action developed by a non-Federal applicant (e.g., TEP), CEQ has opined that Federal agencies should select alternatives which are feasible given the applicant's stated goals and reflect the "common sense realities" of the situation. Therefore, the Federal agencies are evaluating the proposed project presented by TEP to each of the Federal agencies (see Section 1.2.2, Federal Agencies' Purpose and Need Statements).

Althiser, Kenneth
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- 3
cont. be achieved, as is necessary in all areas of the country. Unfortunately, instead of building the small transmission line necessary to achieve this goal, TEP has proposed a massive, environmentally destructive, and extremely controversial powerline designed to export power to Mexico, when there are still too many issues regarding electricity here at home.
- 4 The draft EIS is clearly inadequate, because it does not address important alternatives to TEP's powerline which would provide reliable service without destroying our environmental and cultural heritage, and which would not require huge increases to consumers' electricity bills.
- 5 The recent blackout in the Northeast is an urgent reminder that our energy policy should be based on serving the public interest, not corporate private profits. I live in California, where corporate profits outweighed the need of everyone and everything else in the State of California, and who benefited? CAN YOU SAY ENRON?? And several from that corporation are doing time for their actions, but in the meantime, California continues to wallow in artificially-induced debt, which the voters have proclaimed the fault of the governor.
- 4
cont. I urge DOE to issue a new draft EIS which fully and rigorously explores all available options-including a local power plant and smaller power lines which would not serve Mexico-to meet the important public interest of providing reliable energy service to Santa Cruz County. I would also encourage the region to investigate alternative power
- 6 sources - solar panels on homes don't contribute to the destruction of the surrounding wildland areas.

Sincerely,
 Kenneth Althiser
 38920 Newberry Street
 Cherry Valley, California 92223

Comment No. 4

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of TEP and the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

A smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

Comment No. 5

Potential economic benefit to TEP from the proposed project is outside the scope of the EIS.

Comment No. 6

Alternative and renewable power supply methods do not meet TEP's proposal and are thus not evaluated in this EIS (see Section 2.1.5 of the EIS).

Ambrose, James E., Jr.
Page 1 of 1

841 W. District
Tucson, AZ 85714
6 October 2003

Dr. Jerry Pell
Office of Fossil Energy, FE-27
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

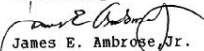
Dear Dr. Pell:

1 I am writing about the Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales
Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I strenuously object to
the construction of the proposed line, and, even more
2 emphatically, to its proposed routing. For more than forty years
I have hiked, camped, hunted and birded in much of the area
through which the Western and Crossover Corridors are proposed,
and routinely take out-of-town visitors over the Ruby Road to
enjoy its natural beauty and vistas. After all these years, the
views which open up as one drives west of Atascosa Peak on the
way from Pena Blanca Lake to Sycamore Canyon still move my soul.
The Western Corridor would trash these viewscapes, and the
Crossover Corridor, though not as bad, would also despoil a prime
natural area dear to many Arizonans.

3 Because there is no social need for a 345 kV line, a locally run
power plant is a better answer to the needs of Santa Cruz County.
Another acceptable alternative would be a smaller line placed so
as to use existing corridors in a sensitive way.

4 Please deny the Presidential Permit to TEP's proposal. Power for
Nogales does not require such a permit, and cost savings for
power companies are not sufficient reason to allow an egregious
degradation of our country.

Yours truly,


James E. Ambrose, Jr.

Comment No. 1

The Federal agencies note the commentor's opposition to the construction of the proposed transmission line and the emphasized objection to the proposed routing.

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.2 and 4.2 discuss the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to Atascosa Peak, Peña Blanca Lake and Sycamore Canyon.

Comment No. 3

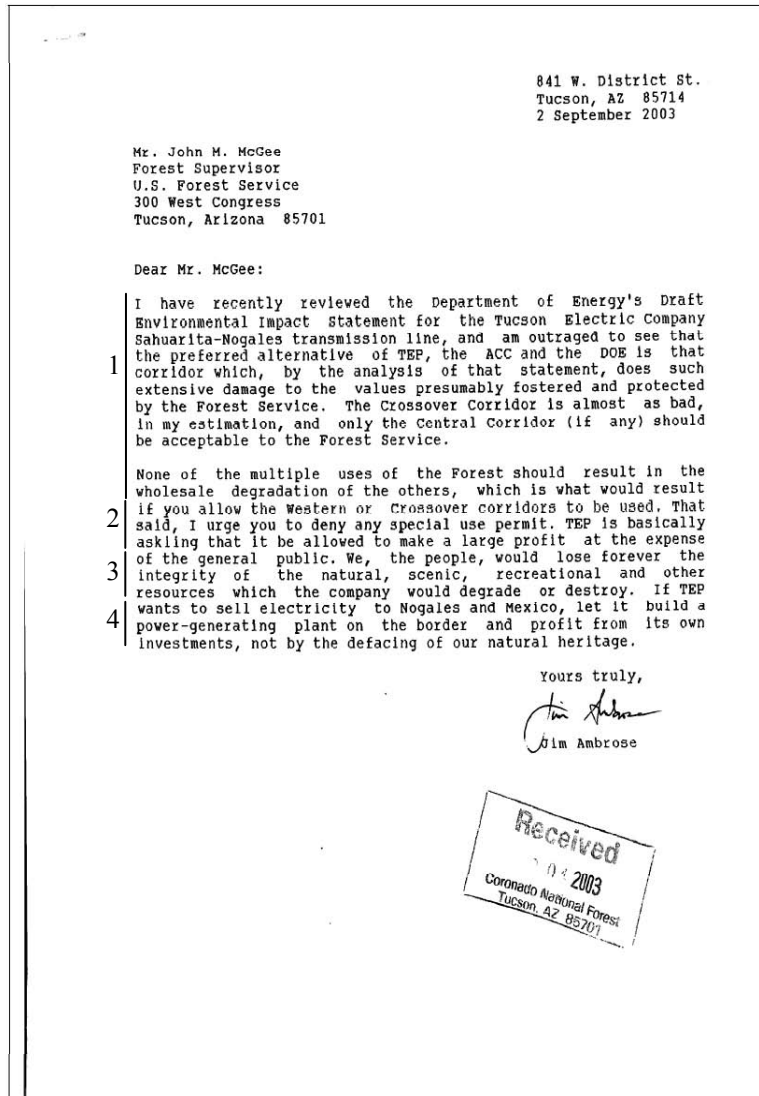
TEP's purpose and need for the proposed project, as provided to DOE in TEP's Presidential Permit Application, is "...to construct a double-circuit 345 kV, alternating current transmission line to interconnect the existing electrical systems of TEP and Citizens Utilities ("Citizens") in Nogales, Arizona, with a further interconnection to be made from Nogales, Arizona to the CFE transmission system..." In an applicant-initiated process, such as TEP's proposed project, the range of reasonable alternatives analyzed in detail in the EIS is directly related to the applicant's purpose and need.

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).

Comment No. 4

The commentor's opinion that DOE should deny the Presidential Permit is noted

Ambrose, Jim
Page 1 of 1



Comment No. 1

Section 1.2.2.2 explains the purpose and need of USFS in response to TEP's proposed project, and Section 3.1.1, Land Use, explains the specific direction for managing the Coronado National Forest. If approved, the authorization process would include USFS personnel who would coordinate the proposed project with other multiple uses on the Coronado National Forest.

Comment No. 2

Potential economic benefit to TEP from the proposed project is outside the scope of the EIS.

Comment No. 3

Sections 3.1.2 and 4.1.2 discuss the existing recreational opportunities and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Sections 3.2 and 4.2 discuss the existing visual resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Comment No. 4

Section 1.2 explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the

Comment No. 4 (continued)

scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS (refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis).